

**Hobart, Jamie**

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**From:** WVolovski <wvolovski@granby-ct.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 3:05 PM  
**To:** pstestimony  
**Subject:** Raised Bill 238 Re: Residential fire sprinklers.

I am writing in opposition to the proposed language of Section E of the proposed Raised Bill 238. This change to the Statutes would require the installation of fire sprinklers in single family residences when they are renovated or added to. In addition to my position as a municipal building official I was also a firefighter for over 37 years. I am a strong proponent of residential sprinklers, but I do not believe that this is the appropriate route or language to get them into homes. The requirement for sprinklers in single family homes should be addressed through the normal building code adoption process and not through special legislation. The proposed wording would require someone doing a project as simple as finishing a basement or remodeling a kitchen to retrofit sprinklers. This would be an onerous burden for most homeowners. In addition the proposed bill would require local fire marshals to approve the plans for the proposed sprinkler designs. This would place a great hardship on many smaller communities which in some cases do not have adequate staffing or support for their local fire marshals.

There are currently coalitions which include building officials, fire marshals, health officials, and sprinkler professionals working together to address residential sprinklers. I would urge your committee to allow them to continue to research and develop a plan that integrates sprinklers through the normal building code adoption process.

William Volovski  
Building Official  
Town of Granby